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RUCNISL/ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA PRIORITY 3350

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EUR/FO FOR FARAH PANDITH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/07/2018

TAGS: [PINR](#) [KISL](#) [SP](#)

SUBJECT: SPANISH REACTION TO ANTI-ISLAM VIDEO (C-DI8-00223)

REF: A. STATE 20821

[¶](#)B. STATE 8993

Classified By: DCM Hugo Llorens for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[¶1.](#) (S) Question A: Spanish security and intelligence services are currently on high alert in advance of the March 9 national elections. The March 11, 2004 train bombings in Madrid occurred just days before the last national elections, and Spanish officials are concerned about the possibility of another attack by international terrorists or Basque terrorist group ETA. However, post is not aware of any heightened security or intelligence posture based upon the Wilders film's scheduled March release. Contacts from the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told Senior Advisor Farah Pandith in early February that they did not expect the Spanish Muslim community to react strongly to the Dutch film, citing the lack of protests in Spain after the Danish cartoon incident. In subsequent inquiries, Justice Ministry Subdirector General for Religious Affairs Juan Ferreiro told Poloff February 13 that the GOS understood that the film would draw comparisons between the Quran and Mein Kampf, which he said would go beyond Spain's threshold of freedom of expression and could constitute hate speech. The government would likely condemn the film and would seek to minimize its impact in Spain. Ferreiro said that European governments were taking cues from the Dutch on the matter and would allow the Dutch government to be the first to react to the film. He said that the GOS did not anticipate a violent reaction from the Spanish Muslim community, and that no Islamic leaders had contacted the Ministry of Justice to discuss the topic. UCIDE, the largest Spanish Islamic community, makes no mention of the film on its website but does call on its members to participate in the March 9 elections. Mainstream Spanish Islamic website WebIslam republished an article printed in Spanish news magazine "Revista Amanecer" from March 2 entitled, "Geert Wilders' anti-Islamic film angers Netherlands and Europe." Other major Spanish media outlets have discussed the film but only in the context of Pakistan's decision to block YouTube's broadcasting of the preview, not in relation to the film's reception in Spain.

[¶2.](#) (S) Question B: On March 6, Spanish Secretary of State for the European Union publicly offered Spain's "solidarity" to the Netherlands at an event in The Hague, including offering Spanish intervention with Arab governments on behalf of the Netherlands to explain the importance and inviolability of freedom of expression in Europe.

[¶3.](#) (S) Question C: No information to date.

[¶4.](#) (S) Question D: No information to date.

¶5. (S) Question E: No information to date.

¶6. (S) Question F: No information to date.

AGUIRRE